

WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, November 21.

The saying, "All things come to those who wait," is not generally accepted as being strictly true, but if "many" be substituted for "all," and the wait be long enough, it will be accepted by everybody as true. One of the most persistent of the demands made by the National Farmers' Alliance since its organization; and repeated at its Convention at Memphis last week, has been for a graduated income tax, and to the shrewdest observers it now begins to look altogether probable that an income tax will be imposed by the Fifty-third Congress; and although Mr. Cleveland has in the past expressed himself as being opposed to such a law, the circumstances which will compel that Congress to adopt some quick and certain method of raising money to meet the big deficit that is anticipated between the revenues and expenditures of the Government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1893, will, it is believed, cause him to either sign the bill or to allow it to become a law without his signature.

This same expected deficit will, unless some precautionary legislation be adopted at the coming session of Congress, and that, owing to the political difference between the House and Senate, is not confidently expected by any one with whom your correspondent has talked, make the calling of an extra session necessary. Indeed, it is already regarded here as certain that an extra session will have to be held, and the difference of opinion among prominent Democrats is merely whether it will be better to call it in the spring or to wait until fall. It is probable that the condition of the Treasury when the new Administration takes charge will determine the time for the extra session to meet, or whether it shall meet at all. Secretary Foster of the Treasury says there will be no deficit for the current fiscal year, and that he has made no predictions as to one in the next fiscal year. No prediction was necessary from the Secretary; the Treasury statements are open to the public, and everybody who takes the trouble to study them up and compare the probable income for the next fiscal year with the expenditures that are absolutely bound to be made, even if Congress were ever so economically inclined, will soon come to the conclusion that a deficit is inevitable unless avoided by new legislation.

President Harrison certainly possesses the happy knack of making good appointments to responsible positions. Among the vacancies which it was generally thought after election returns were in that it would be impossible to get a man big enough to fill for the short time remaining of the present Administration was that of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, but President Harrison solved the problem as soon as he came to it in the regular course of business by appointing Congressman-elect Gear of Iowa, whose experience on the Ways and Means Committee of the House had made him familiar with Treasury matters. Mr. Gear was defeated for Congress in the Democratic tidal wave of 1890, but was re-elected to the Fifty-third Congress, so that it will not inconvenience him to put in his time until his Congressional term begins as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

There is a rumor here that President-elect Cleveland and Vice-President-elect Stevenson are not of one mind about who shall represent Illinois in the next Cabinet, and that Mr. Stevenson claims the right to make his selection. Whether this be true or not cannot at this time be said, but from prominent Democrats of Illinois, quite a number of whom have been in Washington during the last few days, it has been learned that there are two rival factions, one of them headed by Mr. Stevenson, fighting for this Cabinet position as well as for the control of the Federal patronage of the State, and the prediction has already been made that unless they can agree upon some man who is personally satisfactory to Mr. Cleveland Illinois will not be represented in the Cabinet.

Mr. Blaine has been sick again. He had a severe cold, which for a time threatened to develop a serious throat trouble, but he is now nearly all right again. It is probable that he may spend the winter in Southern California or in Mexico, as he finds this climate, with its frequent and sudden changes in winter, more and more trying to him every year. Mrs. Lease's Senatorial candidacy is not very seriously regarded here, although there are lots of people who believe that she will succeed in naming the next Senator from Kansas, and even a few who express the belief that she will herself be elected, and a great many entirely without interest in the contest have expressed the wish that she might be elected, just to see whether any effort would be made by the Senate to prevent the occupying a seat in that body, because of that little "he" in the Constitution.

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